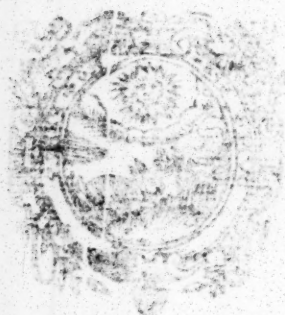


SOME
MEMORIALS
OF THE
CONTROVERSIE
WITH THE
VVOOD-MONGERS,
OR
TRADERS in FUEL;
From the YEARE 1664. to this Time,
As it lieth before a Committee of
COMMON-COUNCIL.



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SOME
MEMORIALS
OF THE
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OF
TRADESMEN
From the Year 1664 to this Time
As it hath before a Committee of
COMMON-COUNCIL



LAWRENCE MAYOR.

Com. Concil. tent. Vicesimo septimo die Januarii, Anno Dom. 1664. Annoque Regni Regis CAROLI Secundi nunc Angliæ, &c. Decimo sexto.

THE Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, signifying unto this Court, that several Complaints have been made to the Court of Aldermen, of the late Raising of the Prizes, and abuses used in the Measure and Weight of Coals; And that His MAJESTY hath also taken notice thereof to his Lordship, and signified His Pleasure, That some speedy course be taken for remedy therein. And that several Judges of the Land, and other great Personages have discoursed and given advice to his Lordship to like purpose.

And further, That a Committee of the Court of Aldermen, appointed upon this occasion, have (upon a diligent inquiry into the causes of the said Complaints) represented the same, together with some means for remedy thereof, in a Report to the said Court of Aldermen; which upon desire of this Court, was now Read for their better Information.

It is therefore thought fit and Ordered, That the said Committee of the Court of Aldermen, namely, Sir William Turner, Sir Richard Rives, Mr. Alderman Hooker, Mr. Alderman Thomas Bonfoy, together with Sir William Bateman, Sir Arthur Ingram, Mr. Deputy Nevill, Mr. Deputy Fluellin, Sir Thomas Chamberlain, Mr. Penning, Collonel Cleggatt, and Mr. Deputy Canham, or any two of the said Aldermen, and four of the said Commoners, shall take further consideration of the said Complaints and Abuses, and of the most speedy and effectual means to remedy the same, for the general good of His MAJESTIES Subjects, in and about this City, and parts adjacent, and vindication of the Government and good Order of the same City from such Aspersions and prejudice, as (by relation) are imputed to it; by occasion of the said Complaints and Abuses; And certify unto this Court in writing under their Hands, how they find the same, and their Opinions therein; and Richard Hind to warn and attend them.

LAWRENCE MAYOR.

Com. Concil. tent. Decimo quarto die Februarii, Anno Dom. 1664.

Anno Regni Regis CAROLI nunc Anglia, &c. Decimo septimo.

THIS Day the Committee appointed by late Order of this Court, to consider of several Abuses complained to be committed by the *Woodmongers*, in and about the Price, Measure, and Weight of Coals, &c. And of Remedies for the same, did deliver into this Court a Report in Writing under their Hands, how they find the same, and their Opinions; the Tenor whereof is as followeth, viz.

To the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR, the Right Worshipful the ALDERMEN his Brethren, and Commons of the City of London, in Common-Council assembled.

WHereas by a late Order of this Honourable Court, intimating the Complaints lately made to your good Lordship, and the Court of Aldermen, of the excessive Prizes and Deceits used in the Measure and Weight of Coals; and that His MAJESTY had taken notice thereof, and signified his pleasure for some speedy course to remedy the same; also that several of the Judges and other great Personages had discoursed thereof, and given advice to your Lordship to like purpose, which had occasioned an inquiry to be made into the causes of the said complaints; by a Committee therefore appointed by your Lordship, and the said Court of Aldermen; whose Report thereof, was then read in this Court for their better information; and this Court was pleased thereupon to refer it unto us, whose Names are subscribed, to take further consideration of the said Matters, and of the most speedy and effectual Means to redress the same. Now We, the said Committees, do humbly certify, that We have heard and received the Evidence and Information offered by diverse knowing and credible Persons, touching the said Complaints and Abuses, and (besides that many of the particulars are notorious and obvious to common Experience) do find upon the said Informations, which the Parties respectively do offer to confirm by their Oaths, That the Citizens and Inhabitants of London, and Parts adjacent, do lie under an intollerable grievance in the Cases above mentioned, brought upon them by the Wood-mongers, as by a summary Account of their Practices and Abuses contained in the ensuing particulars, more plainly may appear.

And first, Touching the Price of Sea-Coals, it appears, that the same is, and is used and subject to be raised by the Wood-mongers, at their own pleasure, and that by these several means and practises, especially, First, the
Wood-

Wood-mongers pretending to the sole Trade of retailing Coals, and aiming to compass the same, and to exclude all others, have, in order to that end, First obtained diverse, and do take all opportunities to obtain more of the Wharfs in and about the City, into their own hands, and do convert so many as can be spared from their own occasions, to other uses, binding their Tenants under strickt Covenants and Limitations, not to imploy the same, or but very sparingly, for the Landing or Selling of Coals, That by depriving of others, they only may have those advantages of Landing, Storing, and Selling of that and all other Fuel.

Secondly, where they cannot obtain possession of any other Fuel-wharfs in their way, they deal with the Owners to change the same to other uses.

Thirdly, They disturb and hinder the Coal-Ships from Unlading at Smarts Key, (as was formerly used) and other known and convenient Keys and places, so to compel them to their own Wharfs, whereby the Citizens and others, are disappointed of Buying there at the first hand, and by the good Measure of the Coal-Meters, and of the ready carriage they were wont to have from those places.

Fourthly, They labour to suppress all others that deal in Retailing of Coals, denying them for Engrossers, and imposing upon the easier and meaner sort, Arbitrary Fines, and prosecuting others at Law, denying to all the benefit of Carr-rooms, or the use of the Town Carrs to serve their Customers, and punishing the Carr-men with penalties and troubles, and seizure of their Carrs; if they discover them in such Employment, so to constrain them to keep up their stores to their loss, and the publick damage; or to put them off to the Wood-mongers upon their own terms, for their better advantage of raising the Price, when they have engrossed the whole Store in their own hands. Whereas indeed, the Buying and Selling of Coals, is but an accident to the Wood-mongers Trade, and free for all men to use as themselves, and to encourage the multiplicity of Traders in Victual and Fuel, (especially, that are not united into one Society and Combination,) hath been ever held a most certain means to keep down the Price of those Provisions, and at this time, we find those other Retailers willing to Sell by the just Measures, and at much lower Rates than the Wood-mongers do, if they could be supplied with Carrs to serve out their Coals to the Buyers.

Fifthly, They generally obstruct their own Apprentices, after their times are expired, from Setting up, by disappointing them of Wharfs, and denying them Carr-rooms, as a further means to continue the Trade Engrossed in a few hands.

Sixthly, They deny their own, nor will suffer, but in all they can, discourage and hinder the Town Carrs from carrying home the Coals of private Persons, which are not bought of themselves, thereby hindring all Persons of supplies from the Ships at the first hand, where they would receive much better Measure, besides the advantage of the Ingrain, and at far easier Prizes than are afforded by the Wood-mongers; so that if these restraints be put upon the Trade by the Wood-mongers, for their own private Gain, in a time of so vast increase of Houses and Inhabitants, within this City, and parts adjacent, an advance of the Price of Sea-Coals must necessarily ensue.

Secondly,

Secondly, The Wood-mongers having by the means before mentioned, so far prevailed, to obstruct the Dealing of all others, and to obtain unto their own hands the sole Trade of Coals, have used of late by confederacy (after they have competently stored themselves) to with-draw and absent from the City several days, upon arrival of the Summer Coal-Fleet, retarding the same at dead Markets, in design to disappoint a Voyage, and so upon pretence and colour of scarcity, to raise the Price afterwards at their own will. Whereas, If they gave the wonted quick dispatch or discharge of such Fleets, the same might, (as is credibly informed) make oftner returns for the store and supply of the City.

Thirdly, They agree (as may best serve their turns) in Summer time, to lay aside a Carr-room or more a piece, to promote a Winter Trade, by restraining and disabling themselves to serve out their Fuel in the Summer and cheapest time, that by pretence of over-much Work, they may defer their Customers to the latter and dearer Seasons of the Year; and if any happen to make timely and cheaper contracts, they often force them, notwithstanding, to pay the Rates of the latter or dearer Season, which themselves have chose for delivery of the Coals.

Fourthly, It hath been further observed of the Wood-mongers, upon their late raising the Price of Coals, that thereupon, they also raised and dispersed a Report and rumour, that a Price was about to be set by the Magistracy and Authority of this City, upon Sea-Coals, thereby to discourage and hinder the bringing in of any more Coals, till they had uttered their own Stores at the present dear or dearer Rates.

Secondly, Touching the Wood-mongers Abuses in the Measure and Weight of Coals, the same are evidenced in the following particulars.

First, That they Buy by the just and Lawful Measures of the City, and Sell by the less and Unlawful Sacks, which are made by their own Order, Sized and Licensed for Twelve pence a Sett, at their Common-Hall, and enjoyed (with a prohibition of the Coal-Meters) to be used by all the Company, whereby, and by other Artifices, they make Twenty three, and Twenty four Chaldron of a Score. And if by the Coal-Meters means, or any omission; or unskilfulness of their own Servants, they are disappointed of those unjust advantages, they fall upon them with evil and reviling Language, as the Authors of some unusual and great injury to them.

Secondly, If any go about to Measure their said unlawful Sacks, (which generally want three or four Bushels in a Chaldron) the Carr-men, if they discover the Meters, will, to avoid them, drive away, and rather go far about, and carry back their Coals, than subject them to be Measured. And the Wood-mongers do give notice and an ill Character of such Person in their Company, that all may beware or avoid to serve him with Coals for the future.

Thirdly, They practice alike, or greater deceit in the Weight of Pitt Coals, which by some have been discovered to Sell under Weight above Four hundred, and sometimes Six hundred in a Tun.

Fourthly, they allure by Compositions, and deter by vexatious Actions, and Arrests, such as are employed, or go about to prosecute any Wood-monger for deceit in the Weight or Measure of their Coals.

And

And no less are their Abuses (as is likewise attested) in the Buying and Selling of Wood, which contrary to Law, and many good Acts of Common-Council, they usually for their greater gain, go down and deal for in the Country, allowing it, to be Cut and made up under assize, conditioning to abate in Price for the same accordingly; insomuch, that the Billets which they Buy at Eleven or Twelve Shillings, they sell again for Two and Twenty Shillings a Thousand: Whereas no Fire-Wood ought to be Bought by the Wood-mongers, till it be brought up to the City and viewed, and found to be of good assize, and the Price set thereon by the Lord Mayor, and that it have lain upon the Water in Winter Eight Hours, and in Summer Twelve Hours, for any Citizen or Private Person to furnish for their own use.

It is further complained and very evident, that there being about Fifty of the Number of Carr-men of the Poorer sort, who had Carr-rooms, and were called Pensioners to the Company of Wood-mongers, the said Company designing to advance a Sum of Money for their common use upon the said Poor Men, did propose to them either to take Twenty Pounds a piece, and resign their said Carr-rooms, or to give and pay so much to the said Company and retain them, and did thereupon inforce the said Poor Men to raise and pay Twenty Pounds a piece, (amounting in all to a Thousand Pounds, or thereabouts) to continue the benefit of their said Carr-rooms, which many of them were very unable to do, being in want before, for the relief and livelihood of themselves and their Families.

Now, for remedy of the before mentioned Evils and Abuses of the Wood-mongers; and First, of inhancing the price of Sea-Coal, We think fit,

1. That the Act of Common-Council, made the Tenth of May, in the Year 1661. whereby the said Company are reinvested with the Government of Carrs, &c. and the Number limited to Four Hundred and Twenty, and of them One Hundred and Forty assigned to the Wharfs, for Carriage of Fuel, and by means of which Act, the Wood-mongers (as is conceived) do assume the power and advantages of those practices, be repealed, or so altered, that the whole Number of Carrs may be at liberty (as they were before) for the Carriage of Coals and other Fuel; And that it may not be in the Wood-mongers power to hinder, but that all that will may Buy, either for their own use, or to Sell again, and have free libertie to Land, Un-load, and Measure their Coals at any Common Wharfs and Keys, or other convenient places, and Carts to carry them home at their own pleasure.

Secondly, That there be some considerable stock of Coals (by such means as this Court shall think fit) provided yearly, (as hath been formerly intended) at the cheapest, and sold out at the dearest Seasons of the year, to keep down the Price upon any emergent occasion, especially for the help and relief of the Poor.

Thirdly, That when it is found expedient a Price to be set upon Coals, according to the Custom of the City.

Secondly, To prevent the said deceits in false Measures, and Weight of Coals, We think fit.

First, That the Wood-mongers be not permitted to keep any Carrs to their Wharfs, but that all be Street Carrs, and employed for the Carriage of Fuel as for any other Work:

Secondly, That the Wood-mongers, and all other Traders on Sea-Coals,

be strictly held for time to come, not to send abroad any Coals Sold or Contracted for, in any Sacks, other than the Sea-Coal-Meters, and to carry along in their Carts a Lawful Sealed Busbel, Nineteen Inches in Breadth, and Seven Inches and a half in Depth, (and that like Sealed Busbels be kept in every Parish) for every Buyer that will, to Measure his own Coals as they are brought home, as in and by an Act of Common-Council, made the Seventh of September, 1632. and many former and other good Acts and Orders is more fully enjoined and directed.

Thirdly, That for avoiding deceit in the Weight in Pit-Coals, every Buyer may use a Meter, who upon Request, is to attend to Weigh the Coals at the Buying, or bringing home of the same.

And lastly, To remedy the false Size and High Price of Wood, We conceive the same cannot be better effected, than by executing the Acts and Laws in force, which expose all Billets and Faggots under Size to be Seized, and Forfeited, and do forbid the Sale of any Fire-wood to the Wood-mongers and Retailers, till the same be brought to such Key as the Lord Mayor shall appoint, and have lain upon the Water Eight Hours in Winter, and Twelve in the Summer, for private Persons to furnish themselves, and that the Lord Mayor have set thereupon a Price, (as was heretofore used to be done) to be kept and observed under severe Penalties and Forfeitures.

And so we humbly submit the Premises to the better Judgment and Consideration of this Honourable Court, this 14th. Day of February, 1664.

Upon Reading whereof, as also of a Petition of the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the said Company, and of some overtures touching the Surrendring up the Lease made to the said Company, and of the Government of Carrs and Carr-men within this City and Liberties; this Court doth defer their further proceedings thereupon till the said Company shall give their Answer touching the Surrendring up the said Lease.

LAWRENCE MAYOR.

*Com. Concil. tent. Decimo septimo die Februarii, Anno Dom. 1664.
Anno Regni Regis CAROLI II. nunc Angliæ, &c. Decimo septimo.*

AT this Court, the Master and Wardens of the Company of Wood-mongers did surrender up the Lease made unto the said Company, under the Common Seal of this City, in the time of the Mayoralty of Sir Richard Brown, Knight and Baronet, touching the Government of Carrs, Carr-men, and Carr-rooms, and the counterpart of the same Lease, Sealed to the City, was delivered up unto the Master and Wardens, and a Bond, under the Common Seal of the said Company, for the payment of One Hundred and Fifty Pounds per annum to the use of Christs-Hospital, for the term of Sixty and One Years

Years in the same Lease contained, and lately remaining in the Chamber of *London*, not being to be found for the present, a Release of the same Bond under the Common Seal of this City was Read and Sealed in open Court, the Tenor whereof followeth.

Whereas, the late Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Fellowship of *Wood-mongers*, *London*, have by their Obligation under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, bearing Date the Twenty third day of *July*, in the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord *CHARLES* the Second, by the Grace of God of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and *Ireland*, KING; Defender of the Faith, &c. Bound themselves and their Successors to the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of the City of *London*, in the Sum or penalty of One Thousand Pounds, with condition thereon Endorsed, for the true and sure Payment of the Sum of One Hundred and Fifty Pounds yearly, and every year during the term of Sixty one years, from the Twenty fourth day of *June* then last past, at two several Payments, by even and equal portions, that is to say: At the Feast of the Birth of Our Lord, Seventy five Pounds, at the Feast of *St. John Baptist*, Seventy five Pounds; or within Forty days after each of the said Feast days, to the Treasurer of *Christ-Hospital*, for the time being, for the maintenance of the Poor Children therein harboured, as in and by the said Obligation and Condition, could the same be produced, more fully and plainly may appear.

Now know all men by these presents, That the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of the City of *London*, for divers good causes and considerations hereunto moving, have remised, released, cleared, and quit-claimed, and by these Presents for them and their Successors, fully, clearly, and absolutely Remise, Release, and for ever quit-claim unto the Master, Wardens, and Assistants, of the Fellowship of *Wood-mongers*, and their Successors, the aforesaid Obligation and Condition thereof, and all and all manner of Actions, and Causes of Actions, Plaints, Process, Suits and Demands whatsoever, which the said Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens, against the said Master, Wardens, and Assistants, or their Successors ever had, now have, or at any time hereafter may or might have, by reason or means of the said Obligations and Conditions thereof in any wise howsoever.

In witness whereof, The said Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens, have caused their Common Seal to be put to these Presents, Dated the Seventeenth day of *February*, Anno Dom. One Thousand Six Hundred Sixty and Four, in the Seventeenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord, *CHARLES* the Second, by the Grace of God of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and *Ireland*, KING; Defender of the Faith, &c.

And it was Resolved that the thanks of this Court be returned to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, and also to Sir *William Turner*, Knight and Alderman, and the rest of the Committee appointed by this Court, for the management of the aforesaid affair, for their great care and pains taken therein.

Upon

UPon this Report, &c. The Government of the Carrs was taken from the Company of Wood-mongers; And by Act of Common-Council, bearing Date the Twenty first day of June, 1665. were placed in the President and Governors of Christs-Hospital, and by that Act amongst other things is as followeth.

And for the prevention of such Deceit hereafter, as divers Wood-mongers have Practised in the Sale and Measure of their Coals, It is Enacted, That all Sea-Coals hereafter to be Sold, or Uttered by Retail, by any Person or Persons whatsoever, shall be filled and brought home to the Buyers in the Sea-Cole-Meters Sacks, or such other Sacks as contain the full Measure of the Sea-Cole-Meters Sacks, and are and shall be Marked by the Keeper of the Guild-Hall for the time being, according to an Order of the Court of Aldermen, made the Twenty fifth day of October, in the time of the Mayoralty of Sir Thomas Cambell, Knight, deceased; and carried by some Street Carr or Carrs, of Persons duly Licensed and Allowed as aforesaid, and bearing upon the same Carrs the Mark of the Red-Cross, for a Note of their Allowance, as hath antiently been accustomed.

The Governors of Christs-Hospital, together with the Fellowship of Carr-Men, have been at great Charges in Suits of Law, to bring the said Wood-mongers or Retailers in Fuel to a compliance with the said Act of Common-Council; They with their Purse and Persons, have in all Courts opposed the same, some of them well knowing, that if the Carr-Men should be permitted to carry Fuel, they should lose great Sums of Money yearly, which they now get by the delivery of short Measure, and several of them have been Indicted at Sessions for delivering sometimes two Bushels, and sometimes three Bushels short in a Load of Coals.

The Argument about this by Law in the Exchequer, and at the Kings-Bench-Bar have not been yet determined, by reason some few things should be added to them by Law, which the Governors do earnestly pray the Common-Council to do.

The Honourable House of Commons, January the 29th, 1673. Ordered, That a Bill should be prepared by a Committee then named, for the Regulating and Ascertaining the Measure of Coals, and Abuses in the Sale of Wood.

The Sixteenth of February, 1673. The Committee Reports, They had prepared a Bill, and delivered it in, which was Read, and Ordered a second Reading.

The Twenty fourth of February, 1673. The Parliament was Prorogued, so that the Bill received no further debate at that time.

The Sixth of March, 1674. His MAJESTY was Graciously pleased to send to the City this Letter following.

CHARLES

CHARLES R.

TRusty and Well-beloved, We Greet you well;
Whereas We are given to understand, That in this
last Session of *Parliament*, by Order of the House
of *Commons*, a Bill was prepared and Read, for the Re-
gulating Abuses in the Measure of Coal and Wood, within
that Our City of *London*, Borough of *Southwark*, Liberties
of the Tower of *London*, St. *Katherine's*, and *East-Smithfield*,
but the said Bill not having been passed into an Act, by
reason of the Prorogation, and the said Abuses still con-
tinuing to the great Oppression and Grievance of Our good
Subjects, We have thought fit hereby to recommend to
you in an especial Manner, the Regulation thereof, and
as well the putting in Execution all Orders already made,
for and towards the Redressing all Abuses and Deceits of
that kind, as the making such Orders as may totally
prevent the same for the future; Wherein We cannot doubt
of your particular Care, and so We bid you Farewel.
Given at Our Court at *White-Hall*, the Sixth day of *March*,
1674. in the Twenty sixth year of Our Reign.

By His Majesties special Command,

ARLINGTON.

*To Our Trusty and Well-beloved Sir William
Hooker, Knight; Lord Mayor of Our
City of LONDON, and to the Aldermen
and Common-Council of that Our City.*

C

HOOKE R

HOOKER MAYOR.

Com. Concil. tent. in Camera Guild-Hall Civit. Lond. die
Martis decimo nono die Maii, Anno Dom. 1674. Anno-
que Regni Regis Caroli Secundi, &c. viceffimo sexto.

AT this Court was Presented and Read His MAJESTIES Letter, directed to this Court, Dated at White-Hall, the Sixth day of March, last past, setting forth, That His MAJESTY had been given to understand, that in the last Sessions of Parliament, by Order of the House of Commons, a Bill was prepared and Read for the Regulating the Abuses in the Measures of Coals and Wood within this City, Borough of Southwark, Liberties of the Tower of London, St. Katherines, and East-Smithfield; but the said Bill, not passing into an Act, by reason of the Prorogation, and the same Abuses still continuing, to the great oppression and grievance of His MAJESTIES Subjects: Therefore His MAJESTY was Graciously pleased by his said Letter, to recommend to this Court in especial manner the regulating thereof: And as well the putting in execution all Orders already made, for and towards the redressing all Abuses and Deceits of that kind, as the making such Orders as may totally prevent the same for the future; This Court in Obedience to the said Command, doth nominate and appoint Sir John Frederick, Sir William Turner, Sir Richard Ford, Sir John Moore, Knights Aldermen; Sir Robert Jeoffories, and Sir Thomas Player, Knights; William Fluellin Esq; Mr. Pilkinton, Mr. Tomson, Major Gunston, Mr. Short, and Mr. Turgis, Commoners; or any Two of the said Aldermen, and Four of the Commoners, to be a Committee, forthwith to meet and consult what is fit to be done, for redressing the same Abuses, and Report their Opinions therein to this Court, and William Bird to Warn and Attend them.

Wagstaffe.

The Committe thus appointed to consider of His MAJESTIES Letter, never met (as is conceived) for what reason is not known.

THE Common-Council the Second of April, 1677. repeales the Act made in Sir John Lawrence Mayoralty, and makes another Act in the Mayoralty of Sir Thomas Davies, with such amendments as the Judges directed; particularly the Lord Chief Justice Hales, notwithstanding the then clamours of the Wood-mongers (as now) who to excuse themselves for delivering short Measure, complain'd that the Bushel did not agree with the Fatt, which was tryed by a Committee appointed for that purpose, in presence of diverse of the Wood-mongers, and it was found that the Bushel and the Fatt did agree.

As

Afterwards Mr. *John Veere* Trader in Fuel, (who although he hath the Honour to sit in Common-Council, yet will acknowledge if asked the question he hath several times been convicted for abusing the People in their Measure of Coals, and Fined for the same) he caused the By-Law made in the Mayoralty of Sir *Thomas Davies*, to be removed into the Exchequer, where it lay a considerable time by reason of the Change and Death of some of the Barons; but at last was argued by Council on both sides: And in *Hillary Term 1679*, the Barons gave their judgment that the By-Law was only deficient in this part viz. The taking a Rent and Fine for admission to work a Cart, which looked like a Monopoly, or words to this effect.

The Common-Council being desirous to make such an Act, as might hold good in any of the Courts above, desires the Committee of the Markets forthwith to meet to peruse and amend the said Act, as by the Order following appears.

CLAYTON MAYOR.

Com. Concil. tent. in Camer. *Guild-Hall*, Civit. *Lond.* die veneris viceffimo die *Februarij*, Anno Dom. 1679. Annoque Regni Regis *CAROLI* Secundi, &c. Tricesimo secundo.

THIS Court doth now refer a late Act of this Court Intituled an Act for the Government of Carrs, Carts, Car-rooms, Carters and Carr-men, and for the prevention of Fraud in the Buying and Selling of Coals, to the Committee for the Markets, to be by them speedily perused and amended in such parts thereof as Mr. Recorder shall advise, and then to be presented unto this Court.

Whereupon the Committee met and made the report following,
To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of this City of London, in Common-Council assembled:

WE the Committee for managing the publick Markers of this City, have in pursuance of an Order of this Honourable Court, Dated the 20th. Day of February, 1679. seriously considered of, and debated the Bill herewith presented, and every part and paragraph thereof, wherein also we have as may appear by the subscription thereof, had the advice and assistance of Mr. Recorder, who did in the persual thereof peruse also his Notes of the late Agreements of the Barons of the Exchequer upon this subject, and we are humbly of opinion that this Bill may reasonably pass into an Act of this Honourable Court, in the stead of that which was to us referred as aforesaid, all which notwithstanding we humbly submit to the grave Wisdom of this Honourable Court. Dated the Ninth Day of July, 1680.

Pat. Ward,
James Smith,
Gab. Wettenhall,

John Flavel,
George Sitwell,
Tho. Moffett,
The

The *Wood-mongers* or Traders in Fuel presented their petition to the Court of Common-Council, praying they might have a Copy of the Bill to consider of, upon which the Common-Council made the Order following,

Com. Concil. tent. in Cam. Guild-Hall, Civit. Londi. die mercur.
6 die Octobris, 1680. Cor. Rob. Clayton, Mile, Major.

AT this Court the Committee for the Markets, to whom an Act of this Court, (Intituled *An Act for the Government of Carrs, Carts, Carr-rooms, Carters and Car-men; and for prevention of Fraud in Buying and Selling of Coals*) was by this Court referred, to be amended in such parts thereof as Mr. Recorder should advise, brought in a Report, together with a draught of a new Bill touching the said Carrs, to be presented and passed into an Act of this Court; the Tenor of which said Report followeth in these words, viz. To the Right Honourable, &c. Which Report being here Read, together with the said new Bill, and upon Reading of the Petition of several Wood-mongers, praying that they may have a Copy of the said Bill, and their Objections heard before the passing the same, this Court doth refer the further Consideration of the said Bill to the said Committee for the Markets, and Sir John Lawrence, and Sir John Shorter, Knights, Aldermen, are now by this Court added to the said Committee, and the said Wood-mongers to appear and make their Objections to the said Committee, and to have one or more Copies of the said Bill if they shall desire it. And it is further Ordered, That any Member of this Court may repair to the said Committee at their meetings, and there declare his or their opinions to any part of the said Bill; and that the said Committee do meet together on Friday next in the Afternoon, in order thereunto, taking the same into speedy Consideration, and make their Report here at the next Court.

Wagstaffe.

The Committee met the Eighth of October, 1680. And the *Wood-mongers* by their Council by word of Mouth, say, that the Bill in all the parts of it is nought, and delivered their Reasons in writing.

The Carr-men thereupon presented their petition, desiring they might consider of the *Wood-mongers* reasons, and give their Answer; the Committee ordered them a Copy of the reasons; And the Carr-men by their Council by word of Mouth, say, that the Bill in all the parts of it, is good in Law, and in writing delivered their Answer to the *Wood-mongers* Reasons.

*To the Right Honourable Sir ROBERT CLAYTON, Knight,
Lord Mayor of this Honourable City of London, the
Worshipful the ALDERMEN thereof, and the Commons
appointed by Common-Council, to consider of the Bill relating
to the Carr-men and Fuellers, heretofore called Wood-
mongers, when incorporated.*

*The Carr-men's Answers, to the Reasons offered by the Fuellers, against
the Bill now under your Consideration.*

Right Honourable, &c.

WE having had daily experience of your great industry, and earnest endeavours to establish wholesome Laws for the Government of this great and Honourable City; do in the first place acknowledge your great Justice and Compassion towards us and our Families, in vouchsafing us a Copy of those Reasons offered against this Bill, and giving us the Freedom and Liberty of being heard, in Answer to what has been objected against this Bill, wherein We and our Families are so nearly concern'd; that We hope next to the Publick good of this City, you will please to take our Condition into Consideration, who cannot subsist if you permit the *Fuellers* to eat the Bread out of our Mouths, by ingrossing several Trades, *viz.* Traders in *Fuel*, *Wharfingers*, *Liter-men*, and *Carr-men*, contrary to what has been heretofore practised by them or allowed by this Honourable City.

In the next place, We humbly desire to mind you of the former Transactions, in several Committees and Common-Councils upon the Subject matter of this Bill, wherein the *Fuellers* were not wanting to themselves in stirring up all the imaginable objections that could be thought on, to oppose the passing of Acts, made both in Sir *John Lawrence* his Mayoralty, and Sir *Thomas Davies's* time: And when their endeavours proved ineffectual there, then they thought fit in opposition to the Government of this Honourable City, to controvert the Legality of both those Acts in *Westminster-Hall*; and would now oppose the passing of this Bill, though it have received the approbation and countenance of the Courts of Justice for its great usefulness to the City in general, and for the Legality of it as it now remains under your Consideration.

But notwithstanding the opinion of the Court of Exchequer, they have by their Council asserted that this Bill is illegal in all the parts of it; And if so, there is no doubt but they who have hitherto bin so violent in opposing the Government of the City, will still endeavour to Right themselves elsewhere; and if they can effect what they desire, this Bill will not much concern them.

In the second place they tell us, in the Tenth objection against the Bill, that they do not work for hire; and if that be so, We are humbly of opinion that they are not comprized within this Law; but certainly they do not believe themselves in either of these two particulars, when they have thought fit to add Thirteen particular Reasons against the passing of this Bill, which are altogether unnecessary and impertinent, if either of their former assertions be true.

We shall not need to mind you of the Frauds and Deceits in Weight and Measure, which some of the *Fuellers* have been already convicted of, and found short in (a Catalogue of which We have here to show, and pray may be read) and the frequent Complaints that have and are daily made against others, who so zealously contend for this Liberty of imploying their own Carts and Servants, purely to carry on and continue their former Abuses and Deceits, which has been formerly denied them after all the Arguments they could use for it; as appears by a Report of the Committee made in the year 1664. which We humbly desire may also be read and duly considered.

Besides, till the third year of King *JAMES*, the Persons that then dealt in *Wood* and *Coals*, never had the privilege to use any Carts of their own, but were bound to use street Carr-men, as other Traders did.

But in the said third year of King *JAMES*, Anno 1605. the Carr-men who were of several Companies were Incorporated with the said Persons that sold *Wood* and *Coals*, and were called *Wood-mongers*, and by consent of Common-Council and Governours of *Christ-Hospital*, (who had the Government many years before) the Government of the said Carr-rooms was translated to the said Company of *Wood-mongers*, they paying 150 l. per annum to the said *Hospital*.

When the Sellers of *Wood* were thus Incorporated with the said Carr-men, they hired of Proprietors of Carr-rooms such Carts as they wanted, and paid for them by the week, the quarter, and the year, and others by turn or Load, and in time as they were able the *Wood-mongers* bought of the Carr-men Carr-rooms.

The Sellers of *Wood* and *Wharfingers* finding it Chargeable to hire Carts consulted to ease themselves thereof, and in the year One thousand six hundred twenty and five, they returned to the Carr-men, the Carr-rooms they held at hire, and sold those they had bought to their *Wharfes* to the Carr-men: And then at the decease of several Proprietors,

They defeated the Fatherless and Widows of One hundred and forty Carr-rooms, and settled them to their several *Wharfs* in *London*, *Southwark*, *St. Katherine's*, and other places, not paying a penny for them, which cost the Owners Forty, or Fifty, or more Pounds each, and having thus served themselves, they bestowed upon their Friends and Servants Forty five Carr-rooms more for Twenty Shillings each; And in the year One thousand six hundred sixty and one, they made the Persons to whom they gave the said Forty five Carr-rooms at Twenty Shillings per piece, to pay Twenty Pounds more each, to make their Titles to the said Carr-rooms, as good as other Carr-men's were.

So that your Honours may hereby perceive the unreasonable desires of these Men, that when they have sold all their Carr-rooms to us, and have received great Sums of Money of us, they would nevertheless set up Carts for themselves, above the Number of Four Hundred and Twenty now allowed.

Now

Now this being the general Answer to all their Objections, We come now to Answer all their Objections particularly against the Bill.

Reasons offered by the *Wood-mongers*,

1. **I**F this Bill pass, many poor Men who are employed by the *Wood-mongers*, as their *Carr-men* and others who get their livelihood by them, must then be discharged, and consequently they and their Families be brought to want, they being incapable of following other employments, many of them having served Apprentisships to the same, and Inhabitants within the City, and pay Scot and Lott where they dwell.

2. The *Wood-mongers* have most of them laid out great Sums of Money in Building of Houses, Stable and other Buildings, and the rest have taken Houses Wharfs at great Rents, and all of them having been at great charges in providing Horses, Carts, and other conveniences fit for their Trades, in hopes to support their Families thereby: And if this Act pass, must not only Sell their Horses and Carts to great loss; but their Wharfs and Buildings will be in great measure useles, and of little value, and when occasion requires for disposing of them it must be done to very great loss, many of the Wharfs standing in places fit for no other Trade.

judice of the *Carr-men*, whose subsistence this has always been, and indeed to the great injury of the Kings Liege people, who have been grossely abused and deceived in their Weights and Measures, as is apparent by the Report of the Committee in Sir John Lawrence his Mayoralty, upon the complaints then made against the *Fuellers* (which We pray may be duly weighed and considered;) And also by the several Convictions of the *Fuellers*, and daily complaints against them; And for their Horses and Carts, they have had notice to dispose of them ever since the year 1665.

The *Carr-men's* Answers.

1. **W**E Answer, That the Subject matter of this Bill is the same with many former Acts passed upon this occasion, when the *Fuellers* have had the liberty of offering all the Objections they could form in opposition thereunto, so that here is no new restraint by this Bill, which they were not subject too by the former, which have had the approbation of the Courts of Justice in this particular; and consequently they ought not to have retained any other Servants more than were necessary to fetch *Wood* and *Coals* to their Wharfs, which is not prohibited by this Bill; besides they commonly imploy Foreigners who live in the Out-parts, who have an absolute dependance upon them, and dare not detest their Fraud and deceit in their false Measures and Weights, for which so many of them have been and are daily convicted.

2. We Answer as before, That there is nothing new or surprizing in this Bill which might occasion this Objection, the former Acts being the same in substance with this, and in force when the *Fuellers* Built these Houses and Stables which they now pretend will be useles if this Bill pass; though indeed it can be no prejudice to them to have their *Wood* and *Coals* carried out in the Town Carts; unless they esteem it so, to be prevented or detected in using deceitful Weights and Measures, which is the true and only cause why they contend so zealously for using their own Carts and employing their own Servants, it being no more inseparably incident to their Trade to carry out their own Coal and Wood, than it is to Merchants and other Traders, who may as well pretend to have Carts of their own as the *Fuellers*, who the late Chief Justice *Hales* declared did work for hire, and in so doing would ingross two several Trades, contrary to what has been heretofore practised by them, to the manifest pre-

3. The

3. *The Wood-mongers not having Carts to carry out Fuel, and Servants for whom upon all occasions they must be answerable, it will be a means to drive them and their Trade into the Out-parts, and the Citizens and Trades-men will be incommoded by hiring street Carts, for carrying their Fuel, or in going into the Out-parts for the same, both which will not only be troublesome and dilatory, but likewise advance the price of Wood and Coals.*

4. *The Citizens will be liable to the ill behaviour and rude Language of the Town Carr-men, whose Abuses can no way be redressed without complaining to Christ-Hospital, which will be both troublesome and tedious.*

5. *The Citizens who shall have any extraordinary occasions at usual hours for Wood, or Coals, cannot be supplied although to their great damage, the Carr-men living so remote from the Wharfs, and the consideration for carriage not being a sufficient reward to induce them to change their hours; whereas the Wood-mongers Servants now living about them, may be commanded at any hour upon extraordinary occasion, and also in case of fire to help their Neighbours without expecting a reward.*

6. *By the same reasons the Wood-monger shall not carry his own goods, because of the Carr-men, nor Citizens, Shop-keepers or others, may send out his goods the Carriers or Customers house because of the Porters, they being Free-men, as well as the Carr-men, and by the same parity of reason ought to be provided for.*

3. *We Answer, They shall have a sufficient Number of Carts to attend their respective Wharfs, for the Carriage of their Wood and Coals in London or the adjacent parts of it, at all seasonable times without any trouble or delay to them; And the respective Masters of the Carr-rooms or their Servants (whom they shall always be accountable for) shall from time to time give a faithful accompt to the Fuellers, receiving no more for this Carriage than the Rates appointed and allowed; and if so, there can be no colour for their withdrawing into the out parts, and deserting those fair Buildings and wharfs, which they themselves tell us they have erected at so great a Charge, and which they are under no Temptation of leaving, unless it be to get out of the reach of this Law; with a design to practice those Frauds and Deceits heretofore complained of without restraint or compul.*

4. *We Answer, That the Carr-men are easily discovered by the Number upon their Carts, and punishable if they in any sort misbehave themselves, whereas neither the foreign Servants the Fuellers imploy, nor their Carts can be easily discovered, which encourage them to commit those insolences which the Carr-men bear the scandal of, and which they would now reproach them with.*

5. *We Answer, That the Laws of this City have appointed what hours the Carr-men shall attend their labours, whereof many of them have habitations nearer the Fuellers Wharfs, than those Servants they imploy, who will be ready upon all occasions, to serve them at all lawful hours; but to carry Wood or Coals in the night time, which they sometimes practice by their own Servants, the better to conceal their Fraud and Deceit in false Weights and Measures, the Carr-men think it unlawful; and for what they would insinuate of their Charity (when they have so often failed to observe the Rules of Common Justice) the Carr-men hope that their's may be thought as extensive, especially since they live nearer the Wharfs than the Fuellers's own Servants, and may be as useful in case of fire.*

6. *We Answer, That certainly no rational Men can imagine that there is the same reason why all Trades-men and Shop-keepers, should be prohibited from sending out their Goods and Wares to the Carriers and elsewhere by any other than the Free-men Porters: As for restraining the Numbers of Carrs, Carts, and Carr-rooms, which has been so long practised and approved of by all the Courts of Justice, for preventing the peffring of the Lanes and Streets, and obstructing the passages from one Street*

Street to another by great Numbers of Carts and Carr-rooms, as well as for prevention of deceit in the Sale and Measure of *Coal*, which appears to have been practised by the Preambles of the By-laws heretofore Enacted for this purpose, particularly by that Act in Sir *John Lawrence's* Mayoralty in the year 1665. and which is still evident by the aforesaid convictions of several of the *Fuellers*, and frequent complaints against others, whereof a Catalogue shall be produced in due time; And certainly We may now conclude that no such ill consequences does attend the sending of Goods and Wares, by others than Free-men Porters, as are obvious in this case; and consequently that they are much mistaken, who confidently assert, that there is the same Parity of reason for the one as the other.

7. *Such difficulty will arise by this practice, if the Carr-men shall be put upon us, as that by reason of their employing Servants at their own Wills, and putting them away when they please, We shall be left without remedy to prove our debts by the delivery of our goods, the evil consequence whereof We leave to your grave consideration.*

8. *It seems impossible to prevent the Carr-men from taking up Loading in the Streets, if induced thereunto by the proffer of greater prizes than they have for the Carriage of Coals, the consequence of which will be so greatly injurious to the Wood-mongers, and also such a disappointment to their Customers (Citizens of London) who shall perhaps be waiting for the return of the Carts, and they come not at all, that We humbly desire that this Worshipful Court will so consider, as not to put upon us.*

9. *If this Act pass, the Carr-men out of a desire of getting the more Money, will Load as they now do nine and sometimes twelve Sacks in a Cart, not only to the detriment of the pavements of the City, but also to the danger of the People which pass up and down the Street.*

7. We Answer, That the *Fuellers* have the same security for proving of their debts that all the Merchants and Eminent Traders in London have, who constantly imploy the *Carr-men*, for conveying their goods and Merchandizes; and the *Fuellers* can have no greater assurance of their own Servants continuing with them (who are generally poor and necessitous as well as foreigners) than they have of the *Carr-men*, or their Servants for whom they are accomptable, so that there seems to be no colour for this Objection.

8. We Answer as before, That a competent Number of Carts shall be assigned to attend the several Wharfs, and such rules will be made by and with the consent of the *Fuellers*, to prevent what is surmised in this Objection, that they shall have no occasion to complain for want of Carts to carry out their *Wood* and *Coals*, though they themselves (as appears by the said Report of the Committee appointed in Sir *John Lawrence* his Mayoralty, to consider of Abuses committed by *Wood-mongers*, in the Price Measure, and Weight of *Coals*) used (as best served their turns) in *Summer* time to lay aside a *Carr-room* or more a piece to promote a *Winter* Trade, by restraining and disenabling themselves to serve out their *Fuel* in the *Summer* and cheapest time, that by pretence of overmuch work they might defer their Customers to the latter and dearer Seasons of the year; And if any happen'd to make timely and cheaper contracts, they often forc'd them notwithstanding to pay the Rates of the latter or dearer Seasons, which themselves have chose for delivery of the *Coals*. Which being duly considered, it will be plain that the *Carr-men* are under no such Temptation of using Arts to enhance the price of the *Coals*, being only paid for the Carriage according to the Rates appointed.

9. We Answer, That We shall yield intire obedience to such Laws and Rules, as may effectually prevent the mischiefs suggested in this Objection.

10. It seems unreasonable that the Wood-mongers, who live in the City, and are at charges towards the supporting the Government thereof, should lose their lively-hoods by being prohibited the use of their own Carts, for the carrying of their own goods, not carrying any for hire, for the sake of the Carr-men, who for the most part live out of the Freedom of the said City, and what they get therein now, do and then will spend in the Suburbs to the impairing the City, and enriching the Out-parts.

11. It seems very partial that the Wood-mongers only should lose their lively-hood, in being excluded from the use of their own Carts for carriage of their own goods, whereas their case is only the same with the Brewers, Lime-men, Brick and Tile-men, who keep Carts and drive their Trades uninterrupted within this City.

12. It is humbly conceived that it was never the intention of this Honourable City, to give more encouragement to those that live out of the City, viz. the Tower, and beyond Temple-Barr, most of whose Trades depend on the City, and many that are no Free-men will enjoy the benefit of carrying their own goods in their own Carts into the City; which those Free-men, who inhabit in the City and pay Taxes for the support of the Government, and bear all Offices, will be debarred of; and so the Freedom of the City which hath in all Ages been accounted a great Honour and privilege, will become burthensome; and such discouragements will arise therefrom, that it will be a hard matter to let those Houses that are empty, and to no purpose to Build any more, when Foreigners shall have liberty to exercise their Trades undisturbed, and the Free-men not permitted the same.

10. We Answer, That if the *Fuellers* can make out what they assert, that they do not work for hire, they might have spared twelve of their thirteen Reasons offered against this Bill; since We conceive they will not then be subject to the penalties thereof; and certainly they are not restrained this liberty they so passionately contend for (as they would insinuate) purely for the sake of the *Carr-men*, but for the Publick good; and though they affirm that the *Carr-men* live in the Out-parts, and do not pay Scot and Lott within the City, yet is it well known that there are more in Number of them, Inhabitants within the City than of the *Fuellers*; and that all the Workers of the Four Hundred and Twenty Carts allowed do eat and drink daily within the City, which is more advantageous to the City, than what all the *Wood-mongers* Servants do expend, did they live within the City, as indeed few of them do.

11. We Answer, That the *Brewers* heretofore carried out their drink in the Morning and Night time, and did not pester the streets or obstruct the passages, and that the same inconveniences do not attend their carrying out of their drink themselves, as does most manifestly attend the *Fuellers* carrying out their own *Wood* and *Coals*, wherein so many of them have been found guilty of defrauding the People as aforesaid; and for the *Lime men*, together with the *Brick* and *Tile-men*, they very rarely or never used Carts till the Fire-time, but used Horses, and Load out of the Liberties of the City; and yet We conceive, That as well the *Brewers* Drays as their Carts, when working in the City, are under the regulation of the City.

12. We Answer, That it is humbly conceived this Bill will contribute much to the advantage of the *Fuellers*, inhabiting within the City and improving their Trade, and will tend as much to the impairing and lessening of their Trade that live without the Liberties; since the People will think themselves secure from Frauds and Deceits in their Weights and Measures by this Bill, in dealing with such as are within the obligation of this Law, and will be discouraged from reposing any confidence or dealing, with such as inhabit without the Liberties, who have the opportunities of imposing false Weight and Measure upon the People, by employing their own Carts and Servants, which is the great privilege that Mr. *Veere*, and some others of the *Fuellers* are now pleading for, though he and some of the rest have been convicted of it more than once already, which is taken notice of by the *Carr-men* with much reluctance, since he has the honour to be a Member of the Common-Council of this Honourable City, though he

has opposed the Government thereof to the highest degree. To this We might add, that all Citizens living without the City are liable by their Oaths to the Laws made by the City, and it is hoped in time a short Act of Parliament may be procured, to give the City a power over all such Carts as are out of the Liberties, and do upon occasion come into the City; in the mean time tis hoped the *Fuellers* may be convinced from the former part of the Answer, to this their reason against the Bill, that the Freedom of the City will not become at all burthensom, nor the Rents of the City fall by the passing of this Bill, but rather the contrary, as has been shewn above.

13. *We humbly propos for the answering the Justice of this Honourable City, and for taking off reflection or imputation of Scandal, that may fall upon any for not doing the same, that an Act may be passed, that all Traders in Fuel may be obliged to Measure their Coals into their Sacks by a lawful Bushel, or otherwise to have a sworn Meeter at his or their Wharf or Wharfs, whereby all occasions of jealousies on the one hand, and injustice on the other hand will be removed, and then We doubt not but they will see that this will better answer the just end and desire of every individual Citizen, than the passing of this Bill that now lies before you, which will be to the ruine of many Families.*

13. We Answer, That by this Bill as by all the former Acts made upon this occasion, there is provision made for a lawful Bushel and Sacks, to prevent Fraud and Deceit, and the *Carr-men* do with all humility affirm, That if this Bill now under your consideration do not pass, it must inevitably ruine many Families of the Fellowship of the *Carr-men*, besides the other ill consequences that attend the not passing of it, to the inhabitants of the City in general, and their Common interest, which are before specified; and which We humbly pray you would take into your serious consideration, together with the Transactions in former Committees and Common-Councils, wherein the *Fuellers* have been heard at large, in opposition to the former Laws made to this purpose, and that you would be pleased to provide, that Mr. *Veere* and his Brethren may not continue their abuses to us, and you, by a Law which they now seem to contend for, in opposing the passing of this Bill, and endeavouring to gain a privilege and Liberty of using and employing their own Carts and Servants, to prevent the discovery of their Frauds and Deceits, and utterly to ruine and impoverish many Families of the *Free-Carr-men* within this Honourable City.

We therefore humbly pray, That the Bill now before you may pass into a Law without any alteration whatsoever, and the rather, for that the Order of Common Council (whereby the late Act to this purpose stands referred to this Honourable Committee) directs that the same be speedily perused and amended in such parts thereof as Mr. *Recorder* shall advise, which We humbly presume to mind you of, to show that We humbly conceive it never was the intention of the Common-Council to gratify the clamorous importunity of those Men, who had in all times opposed the Government of this Honourable City to the highest degree, Whereas on the contrary We the *Carr-men* have, and will with all cheerfulness submit to the good Orders and Rules, which have or shall be made for our Regulation.

The Answers to the *Wood-mongers* Reasons, were delivered in by the *Carr-men* the 18th. of October, 1680. The Committee having ordered the *Wood-mongers* to attend the same time, Mr. *Veere* and one or two more appeared, and said they had no notice of this meeting, and pray'd they might not be surprized; the Committee although satisfied by Mr. *Man*, that their Solicitor had timely notice given him of this meeting; nevertheless that they might have no cause to complain, they ordered, that all Persons concerned should now take notice that this Committee does resolve to meet to morrow at Four of the Clock in the Afternoon, to hear what any Person hath to say concerning the matters depending before them. At which time the Committee being met, Council were fully heard on both sides, not only concerning the Legality of the Bill depending before the Common-Council; but also to the Reasons of the *Wood-mongers*, and Answers of the *Carr-men*, Whereupon the Committee drew up their Report as follows:

To

To the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN,
and Commons of the City of London, in Common-
Council assembled.

W Hereas by an Order of this Honourable Court Dated the sixth instant, declaring that at that Court the Committee of the Markets, to whom an Act of this Court Entituled, An Act for the Government of *Carrs*, *Carts*, *Carr-rooms*, *Carters* and *Carr-men*; and for prevention of Fraud in Buying and Selling of *Coals*, was by this Court referred to be amended in such parts thereof as Mr. Recorder should advise, brought a Report, together with a draught of a new Bill touching the said *Carrs*, to be presented and passed into an Act of this Court, and reciting the said Report, wherein was expressed, that the said Committee having seriously considered and debated the said draught and every part and paragraph thereof, and having therein taken the advice, assistance and subscription of Mr. Recorder, who did in the perusal thereof peruse also his Notes of the late Arguments of the Barons of the Exchequer upon this subject, were of opinion, that the said Bill might reasonably pass into an Act; and the said Order further declaring the reading of the said Report, together with the said new Bill, and also of the Petition of several *Wood-mongers*, praying that they may have a Copy of the said Bill, and their Objections heard before the passing of the same; This Honourable Court did thereupon refer the further consideration of the said Bill, to a Committee therein Specified, and ordered the said *Wood-mongers* to appear and to make their Objections to the said Committee, allowing them Copies of the said Bill, and appointing *Friday* Afternoon then next following for the Day of meeting, Ordered a speedy consideration and Report thereof at the next Court: Now We the said Committee in obedience to the said Order do humbly certify; That we did upon the day therein mentioned, and several times since meet together, and in all our meetings have been Honoured with his Lordships presence and assistance, We have also at our several meetings heard and received what ever the said *Wood-mongers* who had a Copy of the said Bill, had to object, either Personally or by Council, as well *Viva Voce* as by writing, both to the Legality and expediency of the said Bill, and it is our humble opinion that 420 *Carts*, are a sufficient Number for the Carriage of all manner of Merchandizes and Fuel within the City of *London* and Liberties thereof; and that the said Bill as referred to us, and subscribed by Mr. Recorder, may without any alteration reasonably (and that the present disorders for want of a fixed Law to redress them, require it should speedily) pass into an Act of this Court, and be published and put in Execution, all which notwithstanding We humbly submit to the grave Judgment of this Honourable Court, Dated the 20th. Day of *October*, 1680.

John Lawrence, Thomas Moffet,
James Smith, George Sitwell,
Gab. Wettenhall, John Flavell.

The

The Common-Council being Summoned, the same Morning the Committee Signed the said Report, it was presented to the said Common-Council with the intended New Bill; and although the *Wood-mongers* were fully heard by their Council over Night, yet the next Morning they bring a Petition unknown to the other parties. The Petition is as followeth:

*To the Right Honourable Sir ROBERT CLAYTON, Knight,
Lord Mayor of the City of London, and to the Right
Worshipful the Aldermen and Commons of the said
City, in Common-Council assembled.*

The humble Petition of the *Wood-mongers*, or *Traders in
Fuel of the City of London.*

Humbly Shew,

THAT your Petitioners have several times attended the Honourable the Committee, appointed to prepare a Bill touching the Regulation of Carrs, &c. and have humbly desired them that Provision may be therein made, that your Petitioners may be allowed to carry out their Wood and Coals from their Wharfs in their own Carts, and not to be forced to imploy Street Carts for the same, and your Petitioners are willing to submit to all the good Laws and Rules of this Honourable City, touching the Regulation and Government of Carrs.

That your Petitioners are informed the said Committee have ordered their Report touching the said Bill, to be delivered into this Honourable Court, and have made no provision for your Petitioners to keep Carts, which will not only be prejudicial to the Inhabitants of this City in general, and especially your Petitioners, but will tend to the Ruine of many Families whose sole dependance is on the Fuel Trade.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray this Honourable Court (in tender consideration of the premises before the passing of the said Bill into an Act of Common-Council) to be pleased to grant your Petitioners the liberty of being heard in this Honourable Court by their Council, where they doubt not but to give such reasons as may induce this Honourable Court to make Provision for the Fuellers, that a Competent number of Carts, and Carr-rooms, may be assigned to them for the carrying out their own Goods to their Customers, they being willing and desirous to submit to any Regulations provided or intended to be provided, or as this Honourable Court shall think fit and convenient.

Upon this Petition they obtain'd the Order following.

C L A Y.

[10]

CLAYTON MAJOR

Com. Concil. ten. in Camera Guild-hall, Civitatis Lond. die Mercurii 20 die
Octobris, 1680.

THIS Day the Committee, to whom the Bill of *Carrs, Carts, &c.* was by Order of this Court Committed, brought in the said Bill, together with their Report touching the same; the Tenour of which Report followeth in these words: *To the Right Honourable, &c.*

Upon Reading whereof, and of the said Bill, and also upon Reading the Petition of the *Wood-mongers*, thereby praying, that before the passing the said Act, some provision may be therein made for them, for the carrying their own goods to their Customers in their own Carts, and not to be forced to imploy Street Carrs; and offering a proviso to be inserted in the said Bill for that purpose. This Court taking the same into Consideration, and having heard Council here in Court on behalf of the said *Wood-mongers*, do think it fit and reasonable, that the said *Wood-mongers* should be gratified in the matter by them now desired; and to that End this Court doth recommit the said Bill to the said Committee to consider further thereof, and how the said *Wood-mongers* may be accommodated accordingly, and to make Report thereof to this Court.

Wagbasse.

That your Petitioners are informed the said Committee have ordered their Report touching the said Bill, to be kept in the Honourable Court, and have made provision for your Petitioners to keep Carrs, which will not only be prejudicial to the Publick, but also to the Families whose sole dependence is on the said Carrs.